

# Georgia Library Quarterly

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Volume 47 | Issue 2

Article 7

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April 2010

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### Recommended Citation

(2010) "Inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest a Success," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol47/iss2/7>

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## Inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest a success

Victoria “Vickie” Horst has been a photography buff for many years, and her interest paid off in February when her entry was judged the overall “Best Photo” in the inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest.

Jointly sponsored by the Georgia Library Association (GLA), Georgia Public Library Service, Georgia Association for Instructional Technology and Georgia Library Media Association, the contest encouraged library supporters to show their love for Georgia’s libraries — and win a prize valued at \$100 in the process.

“I’m thrilled,” said Horst, who serves as director of the Tifton-Tift County Public Library, part of the Coastal Plain Regional Library System. “I have been taking pictures for almost 15 years, and this is the first time I have won a photography contest.

“Gabriela Meneses came to the library as part of a joint program with the Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage called ‘Peru: The Tifton Connection: Culture, Art and Caring.’ The program gave the citizens of Tifton a fantastic opportunity to experience

aspects of Peruvian culture on a very personal level. There were opportunities to try food, to learn about native crafts and to look at some brilliant photography of the country. Her native costume was absolutely stunning; it would have been a shame not to have taken this

picture of her reading to these children.”

More than 70 entrants submitted photos of magical library moments that were captured digitally between Jan. 1 and Feb. 14 of this year. A panel of judges selected the winners and honorable mentions representing each of 10 categories.

From the category winners, judges then selected Horst’s photo as “best overall” and awarded her the grand prize of a library/reading gift basket valued at \$100 from GLA and a certificate suitable for framing. First-place winners from the remaining categories received a certificate and a gift bag containing an assortment of library-related gifts; honorable mentions received certificates.

A series of posters incorporating all winning photos was displayed during Georgia Library Day at the state Capitol on March 10.

“These photos made for a wonderful display,” said Julie Walker, deputy state librarian. “They certainly drew the attention of our legislators and



**Best overall and winner of best photo of a library-sponsored or Friends-sponsored event** — *Wearing a costume native to her country, Gabriela Meneses of Peru reads to a number of young patrons, including (from left) Adonnis Easton-Tolbert, Kourtland L. Tolbert, Shakeria Eckford and Mariya Browlee, at the Tifton – Tift County Public Library on Feb. 12. (Photo by Victoria Horst)*



**Winner: Best photo of an adult reading** — Library patron and volunteer Wanda Scott Wilson is surprised by the interest shown in her book by Elsie, the library cat. Elsie was living under the bookmobile at the LaGrange Memorial Library until she was rescued by staff members there and came to live at the Harris County Public Library, where she is one of the most requested library staff members. (Photo by Debra Marino)

helped us show them how much Georgians value libraries and library services.”

Winning photographs also will be displayed and their creators recognized at the 2010 Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) conference in Athens this fall.

The complete list of winning photographers is as follows:

Best photo of an adult or adults reading

1st Place: Debra Marino, Harris County Public Library

Honorable Mention: Rattanaporn Lloyd, Athens Technical College, Athens Campus

Best photo of a student or students reading

1st Place: Rattanaporn Lloyd, Athens Technical College, Athens Campus

Honorable Mention: Christine Tighe, Stone Mountain High School

Best photo of a child or children reading

1st Place: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton

Honorable Mention: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library



**Winner: Best photo of a student or students reading** — From left: Athens Technical College students Rattanaporn Lloyd, Justin Fields, John Seymour and Joseph Thomas show that everyone is allowed access to the library regardless of age, race or nationality. Students use the library to connect with friends — and make new ones. (Photo by Rattanaporn Lloyd)



**Winner: Best photo of a person using a public-access computer in a library** — Hannah Downs, 8, with her plush toy Husky at her side, studies at one of the public-access computers in the Whitesburg Public Library. (Photo by Margery Bouris)

Best photo of a person using a talking book center

1st Place: David Evans, Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library, Rome  
Honorable Mention: Wanda Daniel, Talking Book Center, Dublin

Best photo of a person using a public-access computer in a library

1st Place: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library  
Honorable Mention: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton

Best photo of a library-sponsored or Friends-sponsored event

1st Place: Victoria Horst, Tift County Public Library, Tifton  
Honorable Mention: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library

Best photo showing library advocacy/support in action

1st Place: Chuck Anderson of Acworth  
Honorable Mention: Amanda Kiriakos, Athens Technical College, Elbert County Campus

Best exterior photo of a library  
1st Place: David Morris Jr., North Georgia College & State University  
Honorable Mention: Kathi Fly, Woodstock Public Library

Best interior photo of a library

1st Place (three-way tie): Elizabeth Bagley, McCain Library, Agnes Scott College, Decatur; Martha Goodson,

Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton; and Jean Wyant, Central Library, Newnan.

Best photo of a librarian

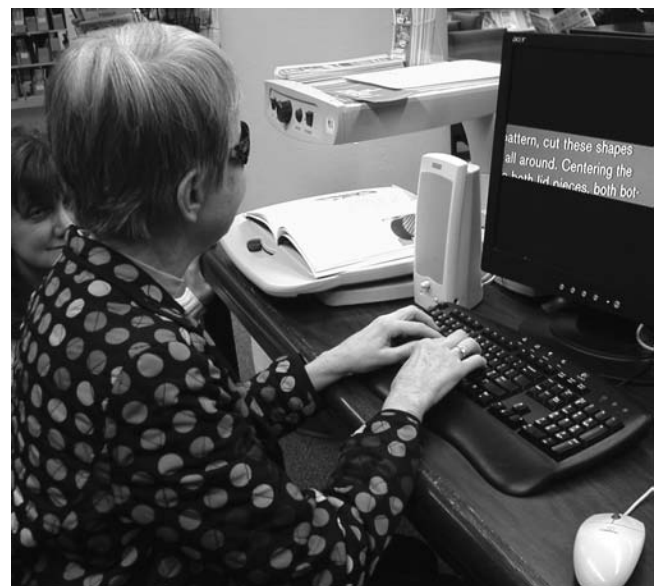
1st Place: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton  
Honorable Mention: Chuck Anderson, R.T. Jones Memorial Library, Canton ►►



**Winner: Best exterior photo of a library** — Built in 2008, the Library Technology Center at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, is now the centerpiece of the campus. The facility houses the school's writing center, IIT hub, study rooms and a café. (Photo by David Morris Jr.)



**Winner: Best photo of a librarian** — Reference Librarian Sarah Boyd of the Neva Lomason Memorial Library sits surrounded by all the tools of her trade. Answering an average of 50 reference questions each day, via phone, e-mail, and in person, Boyd keeps busy in between teaching computer classes, researching genealogy questions, and placing holds on books. (Photo by Martha Goodson)



**Winner: Best photo of a person using a talking book center** — Delana Hickman (left) helps patron Deana Wallace use one of the Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library's accessible computers. (Photo by David Evans)





**Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library** — The new book shelf at the Neva Lomason Memorial Library in Carrollton. (Photo by Martha Goodson)



**Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library** — McCain Library's Kate Durr Elmore Reading Room at Agnes Scott College. (Photo by Elizabeth Bagley)



**Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library** — The main area customers see upon entering the Coweta County Library, the Community Commons, was designed to be a welcoming space for patrons to browse for reading material. (Photo by Jean Wyant)



**Winner: Best photo showing library advocacy/support in action** — State Librarian Dr. Lamar Veatch talks about the state's public libraries with Rep. Gerald Green (D - Cuthbert). (Photo by Chuck Anderson)